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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# LUNCH at SCHOOL



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Food Distribution Administration

**LUNCH AT SCHOOL** is important in building healthy, intelligent, active young citizens. Children need plenty of wholesome food. They burn lots of energy. They are growing in mind and body. They need reserves of vitamins and minerals to help fight off childhood diseases.

Not every child gets enough of the right foods. Selective-service rejections indicate a high rate of nutritional deficiency among American youth. It's not always because the parents cannot afford good food. Children, given a wide choice of candy, other foods, pop, ices, and chewing gum at a lunch counter or canteen, do not often select the most nourishing foods offered.

IN WARTIME it is more important than ever that the child at school be given a well-balanced noonday meal, planned and prepared under the supervision of adults who know about children's needs. Working mothers don't always have time to pack a good lunch. Meals at home are oftentimes hurried and limited by ration points and occasional scarcities. Crowded conditions in many schools and homes increase the risk of disease, even epidemics, among ill-fed children and parents.

The best investment a community can make is to see that its children are well fed. The community itself can insure that they get at least one nourishing meal a day. It's an investment in young people—the future of America.

THE WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION is assisting communities in every State in providing this essential service—a lunch at school for every child. The program is being operated by the Food Distribution Administration, one of the agencies comprising the WFA.

The program can operate in the smallest rural school or the largest city school. All that is needed is community spirit and the willingness of parents and teachers to see that the plan operates effectively.

The following questions are those most frequently asked by interested parents and school officials.

## **1. How does the School-Lunch Program work?**

The sponsor enters into an agreement with the Food Distribution Administration. The sponsor then arranges for the serving of lunch in or near the school building, purchasing the foods needed for the program from local farmers, wholesalers, or retail merchants. The FDA repays the sponsor the money spent for food up to a maximum amount per meal, depending upon the type of meal served. Foods purchased, for which FDA will reimburse sponsors, must be confined to a list of designated foods. Sponsors may buy additional foods at their own expense.

## **2. Who may sponsor a School-Lunch Program?**

In some States, the State department of education sponsors the program in the public schools; otherwise, the local board of education is usually the sponsor. Programs in private and parochial schools, in child-care centers, and in recreational projects are sponsored by the group or organization legally responsible for their operation or by a nonprofit civic organization.

## **3. What can other groups do?**

Parent-teacher associations, nutrition committees, welfare organizations, and similar groups can fully inform and enlist the support of schools and communities. They can act as co-sponsors with local education officials, lending financial help, supervision, and lunchroom assistance. They can help in enlisting and training volunteer workers. In many communities, American Legion posts, Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary, Civitan, other civic clubs, as well as various other community organizations have given great assistance—money, time, labor, and supervision—to make the program successful. Each community and each school must obtain its own workers, whether volunteer or paid. Local organizations can render the greatest assistance in furnishing the needed workers.



#### **4. What schools and child-care centers may participate?**

Any public, parochial, or private school . . . any child-care center (except those receiving Lanham Act funds) . . . any playground, nursery school, summer camp, or similar institution operating for children of high school age or under, on a nonprofit basis . . . all these may participate. However, to be eligible under the FDA program, schools must show that nutritious meals *cannot* be served to all children unless FDA assistance is obtained.

#### **5. How much does FDA reimburse sponsors?**

A school serving a complete lunch with a glass of milk (Type A lunch) may receive up to 9 cents a meal from FDA. If milk is not available, FDA repays as much as 7 cents a meal. For a Type B, or incomplete, lunch the sponsor will receive 6 cents for a meal served with milk and 4 cents for such a meal served without milk.

Types of lunches are described in the agreement between the sponsor and FDA.

#### **6. May only milk be served?**

Yes. Schools or centers in which there is no lunch program may serve milk sometime during the day, and FDA will reimburse sponsors at the rate of 2 cents per half pint per child per day. Schools may also serve a half pint of milk to children who bring their own lunches.

#### **7. Will FDA pay for more than one meal per day per child?**

No. The FDA program provides reimbursement for only one meal per child per day.

#### **8. What will the lunch cost the children?**

The sponsor determines the amount to be charged. However, FDA requires that any profits be reinvested in the school's lunch program, either to provide a

better lunch or to reduce the lunch cost to the children. All children who cannot pay must receive—without discrimination or segregation—lunch free of charge.

**9. What are the responsibilities of the sponsor?**

The sponsor must purchase, store, prepare, and serve the food, conforming to all applicable laws pertaining to serving food in public places. The sponsor must see that each child receives the same treatment and the same amount and quality of food. Meals must be provided free of charge to children unable to pay. The sponsor must submit simplified operation reports regularly.

**10. Does rationing affect the buying of food for school lunches?**

Sponsors must register the schools or child-care centers as "institutional users" at their local War Price and Rationing Board and receive allotments of ration points for the purchase of rationed foods. Schools participating in the program must comply with Office of Price Administration regulations governing rationing of foods to institutional users.

**11. How many children are participating in the program?**

More than 6 million children throughout the Nation received daily school lunches under the program during the school year 1942-43.

**12. Where may further information be obtained?**

From any of the following regional offices of the Food Distribution Administration:

*150 Broadway, New York, N. Y.,* which serves Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, and West Virginia.

*Western Union Building, Atlanta, Ga.,* which serves Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.

*5 South Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.,* which serves Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

*Old Colony Building, Des Moines, Iowa,* which serves North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Minnesota.

*425 Wilson Building, Dallas, Tex.,* which serves Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

*1536 Welton St., Denver, Colo.,* which serves Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico.

*821 Market St., San Francisco, Calif.,* which serves Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, and Arizona.